

Covenant Commission
Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Connecting, Supporting, Transforming

Thursday, January 14, 2021, 9:00 am, Zoom Call

Roster: (9) Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills, Matthew Lindsay

Staff Support: Rev. John Neff, Minister, Congregational Support and Mission
Rev. Lynne Allin, Congregational Support and Mission (ARWRC, HFRC)
Sue Duliban, Executive Assistant

Present: Ann Harbridge (DLM), Sandy Loomis, Kate Crawford (Rev.), Marg Bakker, Judy Chalmers, Norm Eygenraam, Arthur Hills

Regrets: John Neff, Matthew Lindsay

Welcome and Constitute Meeting: Ann Harbridge welcomed all and constituted the meeting in the name of Jesus Christ for all business that comes before it.

Acknowledging the Land: Arthur Hills

We acknowledge the traditional territory upon which we are all gathered. In 1784 the Haldimand Treaty granted a tract of land to the Haudenosaunee Six Nations Iroquois peoples as compensation for their alliance with British Forces during the American Revolution.

This tract of land includes 10 kilometers on either side of the Grand River which is known as the Haldimand Tract. The original peoples of this land include the Attiwonderon (also known as the Neutral peoples) and the Anishinabe.

Today less than 5% of this territory remains Six Nations land. The original peoples have sought to walk gently on this land and we endeavour to follow their example.

We seek a new relationship with First Nation peoples through Truth and Reconciliation and we actively seek Right Relations based in honour and with deep respect.

(Photo enclosed. A picture of a Knowledge Keeper when the White Owl Native Ancestry Association received land from the Waterloo Presbytery Extension Council.)

Opening Worship: Reading from Desmond Tutu's book *God Has A Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Times* (Ann Harbridge)

Opening Agreements:

Approval of Agenda:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** on the agenda.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees to** approve the minutes of December 10, 2020 as circulated.

Business Arising

1. Amend minutes of Oct. 8/20 to include date of amalgamation for Erin United Church and Ballinafad United Church to show the amalgamation effective Jan 1, 2021. Covenant Commission **agrees** by consensus to the amendment.

Consent Docket

1. Correspondence
 - a. Email from Thom McDonough tendering his resignation from the Commission, Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Massie & Pastoral Charge Supervisor for Temple Hill. Covenant Commission accepts the resignation of Thom McDonough with regret and thanks for the work he has done.

2. Pastoral Charge Supervisors
 - a. Nora Fueten to Glen Morris Pastoral Charge effective February 1, 2021.
 - b. David Shearman to Massie United Church effective immediately.
 - c. Discharge Thom McDonough from Massie UC & Temple Hill UC and thank him for his work.
 - d. Discharge Harry Disher from First Waterloo UC and thank him for his work (OM Rose Ann Vita appt. Jan. 1, 2021)
 - e. Discharge Rudy Plug from Wasaga Beach Jan. 1, 2021 and thank him for his work (OM Jeffery Werner appointed as supply)
 - f. Discharge Marilyn Burnard from New Hamburg and thank her for her work (called Margaret Dieter OM Nov. 23, 2020)
 - g. Pastoral Charge Supervisors (PCS) needed
 - Knox Ayr – Feb. 1/21 Arthur Hills volunteered to serve as pastoral charge supervisor, should no one else be available.
 - Alma – Jan. 1-31 during absence of PCS
 - Bayfield – now, no minister since Sept. 30 (council meeting coming up on Jan 26, John Neff has been acting as PCS). Kate Crawford appointed as pastoral charge supervisor for the Jan. 26, 2021 Bayfield UC Council meeting.
 - Belgrave: Knox – no minister since Oct. 26, 2019? Ann Harbridge will check on status.
 - Clifford – ?? now – Student Minister until July 1, 2022. John Neff has been acting as PCS. Norm Eygenraam will consider serving as PCS.
 - Highland UC, Flesherton – Jan. 1, 2021 – vacant. Paperwork underway for David Shearman to be reappointed as supply. Highland is currently in conversation about shared ministry.
 - Harcourt: Guelph – Jan. 1 – vacant. Joyce Kelly appointed as VAM in September. Ann Harbridge will have a conversation with Joyce to see if she would be willing to serve as PCS.
 - Listowel: Calvary-Zion - vacant since Aug. 1, 2020
 - Tavistock UC – will be vacant as of Feb. 28, 2021
 - Temple Hill – needed now. Ann Harbridge will review with Thom McDonough, given that he most recently served as Temple Hill PCS.
 - Thornbury: Grace UC – will be vacant as of Feb. 28, 2021. They are in conversation with Meaford re: possibility of shared ministry, hopefully will know a little more about that by Feb.

Discussion of great need for pastoral charge supervisors in all three regional councils. Lynne Allin noted that she and John Neff have had a preliminary talk about PCS requirements/training/possible compensation?

Documents

- a. St. John's UC, Alliston – Self Assessment
- b. St. Andrew's UC, Bayfield – CoF Profile (Financial, Demographic, Manse, Real Property, Living Faith Story) Awaiting new LFS.
Lifted from consent docket. Invite further conversation with Bayfield about their profile. (Could suggest they do position description for a supply minister).
- c. St. John's UC, Chesley – Annual Report
- d. Dublin St., Guelph – 2019 Annual Report
- e. Thornbury, Grace United Church – community of faith profiles
Receive the following documents: Demographic worksheet, Financial Viability, Living Faith Story, Cover page, Real Property worksheet, and ask the Human Resources commission to appoint a liaison to work with Thornbury to find a supply minister while they undertake conversations with Meaford to possibly share a minister.
- f. Dungannon – Received request to start the disbanding process. Note: final worship service date is to be determined.

The Covenant Commission of Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council **agrees** by consensus to the Consent Docket.

Discussion resumed regarding pastoral charge supervisors. Lynne Allin suggested that a formal working group be established including two people from each commission, Diane Blanchard Minister Pastoral Relations, Lynne and John Neff to create a proposal regarding pastoral charge supervisors to bring back to the Covenant Commissions.

It was agreed that the WOW Covenant Commission would like to move towards creating a proposal as soon as possible. Proposal to include possible compensation model for pastoral charge supervisors, also to address the role of PCS, requirements, training. It was noted that congregations should also be educated about the role of PCS, when do you need one for example. Lynne noted that there is a *Pastoral Charge Supervisors Handbook* on the website under Congregational Support Toolkits.

Kate Crawford will undertake to draft a proposal for consideration at the February 17th meeting of the commission.

Meeting adjourned

Next Meeting: Regular meeting Thursday, February 11, 2021 by Zoom Call - 7:00 PM

Worship by:

Land Acknowledgement: Arthur Hills